

### REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the subject application, and claims 15-16 are withdrawn as a result of a restriction requirement.

The claims have been clarified to specify that the gas turbine engine component has a solid surface or substrate and the powder coating is applied directly thereto. Support for this clarification exists throughout the specification at, e.g., pages 5-6 and 9, and in Fig. 1.

In the outstanding Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-14 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US2004/0115477 (Nesbitt) in view of US Patent 6,531,524 (Ring et al.).

The above rejection is respectfully disagreed with, and is traversed below.

Nesbitt discloses the application of dry particles to a layer of wet bonding material applied to a substrate. The wet bonding material includes an additive or agent, such as a resin. (Paragraph [0023]). The layers are then cured. (Paragraph [0035]). Thus, Nesbitt requires the interaction of a wet bonding layer and the dry particle layer to achieve its cured layered system. As disclosed at Page 3, paragraph [0020], Nesbitt is particularly directed to a coating reinforcing underlayment for coating substrates. This underlayment includes the wet bonding material described above. Nesbitt further discloses at Page 20, paragraph [0178], that the underlayment can be used as a single process without any topcoats to provide adhesion of paper or grip or tractive strength as related to moving paper or other products with a roller at high speeds.

At Paragraph [0147], Nesbitt discloses the use of tribocharged powder technology to enhance the dry particle attachment or adherence to the wet bonding material layer, particularly in odd-shaped configurations.

Nesbitt does not disclose or suggest applying any powder coating in dry form directly to the solid surface or substrate of a gas turbine engine component, as claimed by Applicants. In contrast to the subject claims, Nesbitt requires the use of its wet bonding material layer to

which its dry particles adhere. Nesbitt thus teaches away from the claimed process.

The addition of the Ring et al. reference does not cure the shortcomings of Nesbitt. That is, Ring et al. merely disclose various powder coating compositions. Ring et al. do not disclose or suggest the use of any powder coating compositions to protect gas turbine engine components, as claimed herein. Even if the powder coating compositions of Ring et al. were applied to the Nesbitt process, the subject claims would not be disclosed or suggested as Nesbitt requires the use of its wet bonding material layer. Similarly, if the coating system of Nesbitt were subjected to any deposition processes disclosed by Ring et al., the subject claims would still not be disclosed or suggested, as Nesbitt's coating system requires the interaction of its wet bonding layer with the deposited dry particles thereon.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, the Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and remove the outstanding rejections of claims 1-14.

All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, the subject application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, such favorable action is requested.

A call to the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below would be appreciated should the Examiner have any questions.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Wilkes Beninati 8/14/06  
Christine Wilkes Beninati Date  
Reg. No.: 37,967

HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP  
Customer No.: 29683  
4 Research Drive  
Shelton, CT 06484-6212  
Telephone: (203)925-9400 (Ext. 17)  
Facsimile: (203)944-0245  
email: cbeninati@hspatent.com

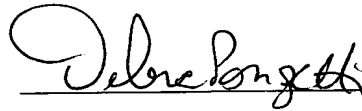


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August 15, 2006  
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